

Environmental Sustainability Newsletter



The Environmental Sustainability (ES) Good Newsletter aims to keep readers engaged with initiatives to improve ES on campus and research into ES at the University and beyond.

Welcome to the second newsletter of the 2024/25 academic year. This month is packed full of new content.

Read our previous ES Newsletters: [November 2024](#), [June 2024](#), [February 2024](#), [June 2023](#), [October 2023](#).

Please send any news stories, events, funding opportunities or involvement opportunities that you would like to be included in future newsletters to srbmh@manchester.ac.uk.

Associate Dean Update

Associate Dean update June 2025

Welcome to the 6th edition of the FBMH Environmental Sustainability (ES) Good Newsletter. It is packed full of inspiring news.

The University is progressing well with its ES agenda, and we are coordinating efforts across Faculties and the central ES team to maximise outreach and efforts to engage everyone on campus and beyond.



[Find out more](#)

Tree Musketeers student society support conservation efforts across Manchester

The Tree Musketeers student society helps to restore green spaces across Greater Manchester. In this blog, society vice-chair Freddy Crisp offers an update on their recent activities.

[Find out more](#)



How I identified and mapped 1000+ trees in the Fallowfield Campus

Biology student Athena Lam spent her summer working at the Firs Botanical Grounds as part of a Student Experience Internship (SEI). From habitat mapping to designing a tree trail, she writes about her experience in this blog.

[Find out more](#)



Advocating for Planetary Health: how SMS students tackled the 2024/25 report card

The Planetary Health Report Card (PHRC) gives students the opportunity to assess the integration of planetary health and sustainability into the curriculum, research, and policies.

[Find out more](#)



Plants for the Planet: Promoting plant-based milk on campus

Plant-based diets are on the rise, not just for health, but as a simple, impactful way to reduce our environmental impact. As part of Athena Lam's final-year student project to promote plant-based milk on campus, she took this message to two major events around campus.

[Find out more](#)



Building a Nature Positive Campus

When it comes to tackling the biodiversity crisis, green spaces on campus are being managed with a traditional landscaping mindset. The results may look pretty, but they can be devastating for native species.

A nature positive campus needs more than small fixes; we need to change our mindset to make biodiversity a key focus point. But what does that look like?

[Find out more](#)



The SHS Environmental Sustainability Champions Network take on Whitworth Park

In the spirit of Earth Day and motivated by a shared enthusiasm for all things ES, the School of Health Sciences ES Champions Network hosted a litter pick on a sunny afternoon in April.

[Find out more](#)



Artificial grass is not as green as it might seem

As part of her final year project, Biology student Anna Thompson created a website aiming to educate prospective buyers of artificial grass about the hidden environmental impact, to help them make an informed decision before purchase.

[Find out more](#)



Read previous student blogs on our [Social Responsibility blogsite](#).

Tackling Food Waste and Packaging Challenges

**Thursday 26th June 10am-1pm,
Nancy Rothwell Building**

This workshop will bring together researchers and academics to discuss the main challenges of food production, waste and packaging and collaboratively develop research lines to address these issues. We hope these projects will serve as a foundation for designing research proposals and securing funding for their implementation.

[Find out more](#)



FBMH Environmental Sustainability Showcase

**Monday 30th June 1-4pm,
Michael Smith Building**

Join the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health for our third annual Environmental Sustainability Showcase. We have a lot to celebrate this year. The event will include speeches from ES experts, hands-on ES activities, and networking opportunities.

We welcome all University staff and students to join us. Book your free place via the Eventbrite link below.

[Find out more](#)



Shaping the Future of Global Sustainability Policy

**Tuesday 22 July, 11am-3pm,
Booth St East Building**

Join Sustainable Futures and Policy@Manchester for an inspiring event where you will learn how the University of Manchester's research and expertise have shaped international sustainability policy through diverse real-world examples.

[Find out more](#)

Urban Nature Walk: Alexandra Park

**Thursday 24 July, 12-1:30pm,
The Old Quadrangle**

Take a stroll with us through the beautiful Alexandra Park on this guided nature walk. Discover local wildlife, enjoy the fresh air, and don't miss the return of our popular Wildlife Bingo—a fun way to explore and engage with nature. Come reconnect with the outdoors and maybe win a prize along the way!

[Find out more](#)

Celebrating ES at the Making a Difference Awards

The University recently hosted its annual Making a Difference Awards ceremony, celebrating the inspiring social responsibility achievements made by staff, students, alumni and external partners. Among the winners and highly commended entries were several projects focusing on good practice and innovation within environmental sustainability.

[Find out more](#)



Quad team gets creative with eco-crafts event

In December, the Michael Smith Quad hosted their first Eco-Crafts Event in collaboration with the FBMH Social Responsibility team. With a focus on sustainable materials and foraged supplies, attendees created beautiful ornaments and crafts, just in time for the festive season.

[Find out more](#)

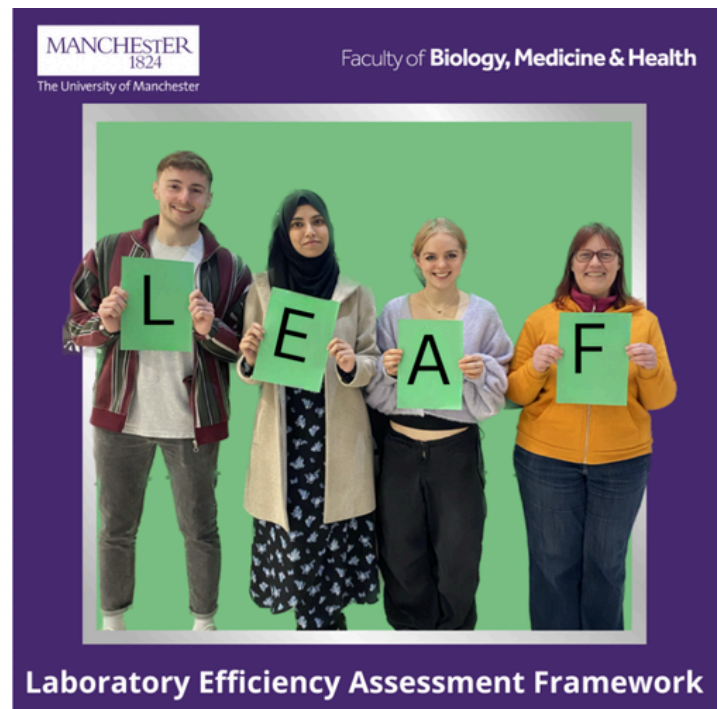


Faculty

Microbiology Labs making an impact with Green SOPs

In the race for scientific discovery, the environmental cost of research is often overlooked. Labs worldwide rely heavily on single-use plastics and follow legacy practices, prioritising convenience over sustainability. Yet, as the climate crisis intensifies, balancing efficient research with ecological responsibility has never been more important. Encouragingly, some laboratories are paving the way toward a greener future by making small but impactful adjustments to their protocols, without compromising scientific quality.

[Find out more](#)



Are you a PI or wet lab user in FBMH? LEAF accreditation required by July 2025

The Faculty has committed to ensuring that all wet laboratories in our Faculty buildings achieve a minimum of Bronze LEAF accreditation by July 2025.

The Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) is an innovative scheme designed to drive improvements in laboratory efficiency. Currently, 66% of FBMH labs hold a LEAF accreditation. Each lab must nominate a LEAF Champion to lead the award application process.

Two new criteria will come into effect for Bronze on the 2nd June.

[Find out more](#)



5 tips for mindfulness and wellbeing in the Smith and Stopford Quads

Did you know that you are welcome to use the Stopford and Michael Smith Quads if you have building access? These on-campus green spaces are the perfect place to take a moment to unwind in nature.

[Find out more](#)



6R Champions go bananas and offer mindful moment with Stationery Amnesty

Answering a call from Furniture4reuse, staff ES champions Beth Taylor and Linsey Nelson organised the Stopford stationery amnesty in April and May 2025. They booked a room, requested two cages for A4 box files, ring binders and lever arch files (no longer wanted at UoM) and produced adverts encouraging everyone to donate or take for 2 months.

[Find out more](#)



Impactful Changes and Swift Progress: LEAF Accreditation in CRUK MI labs

Chief Laboratory Officer at Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute (CRUK MI), Stuart Pepper, speaks about successfully implementing LEAF across the Institute's eight core facilities and twelve labs based in the Paterson and OCR Buildings.

[Find out more](#)



Environmental Sustainability as a Research Scientist

Kerri Smith, post-doctoral research associate and LEAF champion in the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences, writes about her efforts to implement sustainable practices in research laboratory spaces.

[Find out more](#)



Easy Eco for All: Practical steps to eco-friendly living

Harriet Bickley, Research Associate in the Division of Psychology & Mental Health, explains how she created a helpful guide for living sustainably on campus and across Greater Manchester.

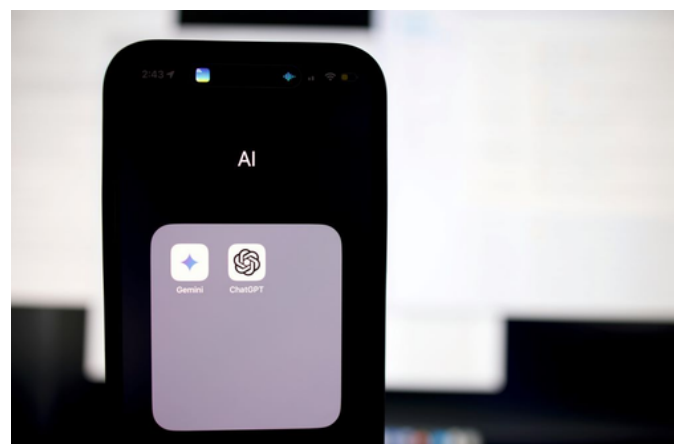
[Find out more](#)



Recognising the environmental cost of generative AI

The buzz around AI seems all pervasive at the moment, and it can be hard to get through a day without seeing another news story about its potential benefits or utility. However, beneath all this hype there are also some inconvenient truths that often get ignored.

[Find out more](#)



Packing up your things? Give it, don't bin it!

Moving out this summer? Whether you're heading away for the summer break or leaving for good, donate your unwanted stuff through the University's Give it Don't Bin it campaign.

Donate your clothes, books, electricals and unopened, non-perishable food to charity to help those in need.

[Find out more](#)



University celebrates Gold win at 2025 AUDE Awards

The AUDE Awards are an annual celebration highlighting exceptional achievements of Estates and Facilities professionals in the higher education sector. We received the Gold for our solar farm development at Medebridge in the AUDE Sustainability Impact Initiative category, which recognises a significant positive impact on the institution, the sector, and the profession.

[Find out more](#)



University launches free bus service trial from Manchester Victoria

Between Tuesday, 6 May and Monday, 30 June, we're trialling free travel on the 41 bus for all staff members. Simply show your university pass to the driver at Manchester Victoria (Stop NU) and enjoy a free ride straight to campus.

[Find out more](#)



University reaffirms environmental sustainability commitment with Concordat

President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Duncan Ivison has signed the Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice on behalf of our University.

[Find out more](#)

Food waste bins rolled out across campus

In a significant step towards achieving the goals outlined in our Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2023-2028, food waste collection facilities have been rolled out to all academic and non-residential buildings on main campus.

[Find out more](#)

University of Manchester and Bupa combine to affect change on environment impact of healthcare sector

The University of Manchester and Bupa have announced an innovative new collaboration to develop new methods and strategies to drastically reduce the healthcare sector's environmental impact upon our planet.

[Find out more](#)

Turning waste into wealth - and more

Manchester researchers have developed a pioneering process using engineered bacteria to transform complex mixed waste into sustainable biopolymers including human therapeutics such as insulin, and bioplastics.

[Find out more](#)



Medebridge Solar Farm hits new milestone

The University is excited to announce that Medebridge, the new solar farm that will provide us with 65% of our electricity demand from 2025, has reached a major milestone with the installation of over 100,000 solar modules.

[Find out more](#)



Manchester researchers win Bezos Earth Fund prize for climate innovation

A research team led by Dr Jonathan Ritson has been awarded a prestigious Bezos Earth Fund Greenhouse Gas Removal Ideation Prize for their research into enhancing carbon capture and reducing methane emissions through the strategic use of Sphagnum moss in peatland restoration.

[Find out more](#)



More University news items of interest:

- [The House of Lords Environment and Climate Change Committee feature research from the University of Manchester in their new report on methane](#)
- [Policy@Manchester: How green is hydrogen?](#)
- [Minister for Energy Security and Net Zero meets with Dalton Nuclear Institute](#)

External

Green NHS news: Trafford Hospital celebrates important milestone in decarbonisation project

Our neighbours in the NHS are aiming to be zero carbon by 2038. An important milestone in the project to make Trafford Hospital the first retro-fitted Carbon Net Zero in-patient hospital in the UK was reached following the installation of temporary boilers on site.

[Find out more](#)



Useful Links and Resources

- Sign up to the **UoM Sustainable Future Newsletter** to find out the latest research news and our seminars/training sessions.
- Sign up to the **UoM Climate Network Newsletter** to find out about all the Climate events in Manchester, apps and publications
- Become a **LEAF champion** (FBMH PGR students and research staff), a green champion (FBMH PGR students and staff – [email Maggy](#)) or a FBMH **6R champion** (UG)
- Useful eco-guides: [Easy Eco actions for all in Manchester](#), plastic focused guides: [6R for practicals and labs](#), [6R for home and campus](#)
- **BBC Radio 4** podcasts ([39 Ways to Save the Planet](#), [Costing the Earth](#), [The Climate Question](#)).
- Sign up to the Planet Bee Newsletter created by students: [website](#) and [Instagram](#).
- UoM free [open access course](#) on public health and the UN sustainable development goals
- [Green QEPEP toolkit](#), a guide for ES projects in a clinical/community setting.
- **Sustainable MCR** - [how to do a digital cleanup](#) and [digital waste](#) informative posters.

Social Media:

X (formally Twitter):

- [UoM Biology, Medicine and Health](#)
- [UoM Sustainability](#)
- [Social Responsibility](#)
- [FBMH Social Responsibility and Public Engagement](#)

Instagram:

- [UoM Biology, Medicine and Health](#)
- [UoM Sustainability](#)
- [Social Responsibility](#)
- **New:** [FBMH Social Responsibility and Public Engagement](#)

LinkedIn:

- [Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health](#)

To find out more about Environmental Sustainability: visit the Faculty's [intranet page](#), [website](#) or contact srbmh@manchester.ac.uk. For more information on Environmental Sustainability at the University watch this [short film](#) or visit their [website](#).

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact srbmh@manchester.ac.uk

[Read our previous ES Newsletters.](#)